



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Feb. 15, 2007

## *Space Shuttle Atlantis rolls closer to March 15 launch*



Space Shuttle Atlantis, on top of its transporter, rolled from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on Feb. 7. Atlantis will be lifted into high bay 1 and mated with the external tank and solid rocket boosters, which are already in place on the mobile launcher platform. The rollover signals the beginning of a journey to the launch pad for liftoff on mission STS-117, targeted for March 15. Mission astronauts will continue International Space Station work that was begun during the two previous shuttle missions.

## NASA presents quality awards to Teledyne and Barrios

*NASA Headquarters news release*

NASA presented its highest honor for quality and technical performance, the George M. Low Award, to two companies committed to innovative management, process quality and customer service. The awards, containing a medallion alloyed with material flown to the moon on Apollo 11, were presented Feb. 6 at NASA's fourth annual Project Management Challenge Conference in Galveston, Texas.

Teledyne Brown Engineering, nominated by the Marshall Center, received the large business service award. Barrios Technologies, nominated by Johnson Space Center, Houston, received the small business service award. Three finalists also were acknowledged — Honeywell Technology Solutions Incorporated, Columbia, Md.; Arcata Associates, Las Vegas, Nev.; and Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts, Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Senior managers and engineers from government and industry attended the Project Management Challenge Conference. The conference is a forum for NASA and its contractor partners to exchange ideas, success stories and lessons learned. It provides participants the opportunity to learn about quality management and improved communication practices to apply in their own organizations.

Established in 1985, NASA's Excellence Award for Quality and Productivity recognizes those in the contractor community whose quality management practices can be a global benchmark for excellence. In 1990, the award was renamed in memory of George M. Low, an outstanding NASA leader who contributed greatly during his 27-year tenure and was the agency's deputy administrator from 1969-1976. Low was a leader in the early development of NASA's space and manned space flight programs.

# Astronauts present 14 Silver Snoopy Awards

Silver Snoopy Awards were recently presented to 14 Marshall team members by astronauts Dan Burbank, Brett Jett, William McArthur, Joe Tanner and Jeffery Williams.

The Silver Snoopy is the astronauts' personal award to members

of the workforce for outstanding and exemplary work. The Snoopy emblem reflects NASA and the industry's sense of responsibility and continuing concern for astronaut flight safety. Less than one percent of the space program workforce receives the award annually.



Emmett Given/MSC

From left, astronaut McArthur, Adonna Mitchell, Michelle Barnett and astronaut Williams. The recipients are from the Engineering Directorate.



Emmett Given/MSC

From left, astronaut McArthur and Ryan Roberts of the Exploration Projects Launch Office.



David Higginbotham/MSC

From left, astronaut McArthur, Pat Patterson of Engineering, Barbara Tepper of Teledyne Brown and astronaut Williams.

*See page 3 for additional Silver Snoopy Awards*



## Silver Snoopy Awards continued



Emmett Given/MSFC

From left, William Y. Vaughn of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, astronaut Jett and Terri Hill of Digital Fusion.



David Higinbotham/MSFC

From left, Henry Seymour, astronaut Williams, Charles R. Kirch and Richard A. Welch. The recipients are employees of Lockheed Martin.



Doug Staffer/MSFC

From left, astronaut Tanner, Kathy Baker of Integrated Concepts Research Corporation, Craig Bryson and James Walker, both of the Engineering Directorate, and astronaut Burbank.



Emmett Given/MSFC

From left, Pamela Cross of the Engineering Directorate and astronaut Jett.

# Marshall deputy director attends final week of Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Training program

Marshall Center Deputy Director Charles Chitwood was on hand to congratulate the first graduating class from Marshall's Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Training program, which instructs students in applying Lean Six Sigma methods to produce significant improvements in operational and financial performance.

As part of Marshall's continuous improvement transformation, the center has an initiative called Lean Six Sigma Operating Excellence. The initiative focus is on improving operating processes, becoming more efficient, eliminating waste, squeezing out costs and becoming more responsive to agency priorities.

Projects undertaken by the class included optimizing the Ares I crew launch vehicle Upper Stage manufacturing and assembly process flow so it will accommodate the Common Bulkhead redesign and developing a reconciliation and workflow process for Marshall chemical storage.

Marshall's Lean Six Sigma Management Office is responsible for training, event management and

project-specific efforts. For more information, contact Patty Fundum at 544-8436 or Mark Adrian at 544-0883.



Doug Stoffer/NSFC

Charles Chitwood, second from left in back row, with Marshall's Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Training program graduates.

## Obituaries

**Francis C. Brown**, 88, of Hartselle died Jan. 24. He retired from Marshall in 1984 as an electronics technician. He is survived by his wife, Lora Maddux Brown.

**Ollie F. Pierce**, 82, of Huntsville died Jan. 31. He retired from Marshall in 1989 as a production controller. He is survived by his wife, Onalee A. Pierce.

**Wayne Jennings Shockley Jr.**, 81, of Huntsville died Jan. 31. He retired from Marshall in 1981 as an electrical engineer. He is survived by his wife, Roberta Brown Shockley.

**Fred A. Laney**, 82, of Huntsville died Jan. 31. He retired from Marshall in 1985 as an engineer. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla Laney.

**Michael D. Leberman**, 74, of Lacey's Spring died Feb. 2. He retired from Marshall in 2004 as an engineer. He is survived by his wife, Diane Gibbs Leberman.

**James C. Helms**, 88, of Decatur died Feb. 7. He retired from Marshall in 1976 as an aerospace engineer. He is survived by his wife, Ruth H. Helms.

## NASA College Scholarship applications now available

The NASA College Scholarship Fund Inc. is now accepting applications from dependants of NASA employees or retirees who are pursuing college degrees in science or engineering. The application

deadline is March 20. For more information and an application, go to <http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/nasascholarship/index.htm> or contact Bill Mayo at 544-7220.



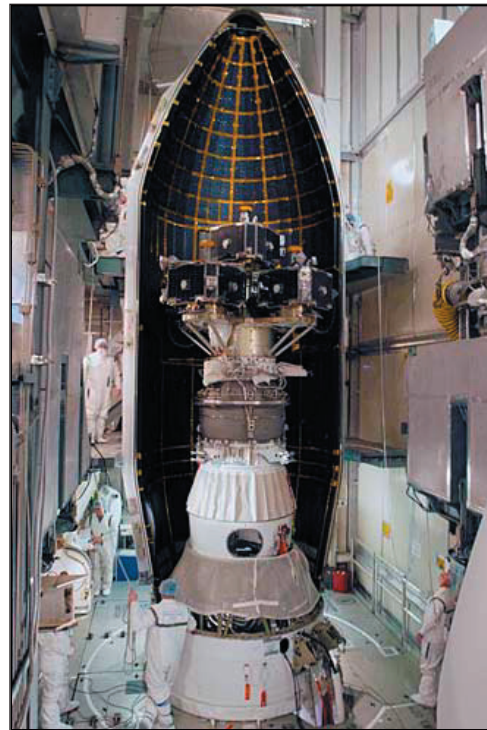
# THEMIS mission set to launch Friday, Feb. 16

NASA Headquarters news release

On Feb. 3, THEMIS was transported from the Astrotech payload processing facility near NASA Kennedy Space Center to Pad 17-B. The five satellites and their rocket were then subjected to a combined systems check to ensure everything is ready for the flight into space on launch day, which is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 16, between 5:05 and 5:23 p.m. CST. Following the test, technicians installed the Delta II rocket's protective payload nose fairing around THEMIS.

Launch day will begin with the retraction of the launch pad's mobile service tower at 8 a.m. Next, crews will begin filling the first stage with RP-1 kerosene fuel at 2:30 p.m. The pumping of liquid oxygen aboard the first stage will follow at 3:15 p.m. Once the propellants are on board the rocket, the countdown will continue to a liftoff.

THEMIS is a mission to investigate what causes auroras in the Earth's atmosphere to dramatically change from slowly shimmering waves of light to wildly shifting streaks of color. Discovering what causes auroras to change will provide scientists with important details on how the planet's magnetosphere works and the important Sun-Earth connection.



Technicians prepare the five THEMIS satellites for launch on board the Delta II rocket.

NASA/George Shelton

## Classified Ads

*To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.*

### Miscellaneous

Wood executive desk and credenza w/protective glass tops, \$450. 880-9025  
Walnut china cabinet, \$275. 256-852-6952  
Fushia prom dress, new, junior size 12/13, \$30. 694-4792  
Upright bass guitar, \$500. 565-3221  
Klipsch Heresey II speakers, oak finish, cane grille, \$550. 256-536-3390  
800 PIII, MB, AGP, sound, LAN, video, 10G HDD, 1G Ram, router, best offer. 457-5943  
2GB microSD SanDisk card for cell phone plus SD adapter, \$70. 256-503-7327  
Three paintball guns; includes CO2 cartridges, \$50 each. 679-3856/Trace  
Pennsylvania House video cabinet, cherry, holds up to 30" TV, VCR/DVD, \$725. 931-427-2059  
Sylvania floor model color TV, 25", walnut cabinet, slightly damaged, \$350. 256-772-6469  
King-size bedroom suite, light-medium color wood w/wicker work, \$800. 883-4910  
MacG4 350MHz, 20GB drive, 38GB extra drive, 128MB

added RAM, OSX10.2, original owner, \$250. 534-9678  
Corner computer armoire, poplar wood, light oak finish, must pick up, \$175. 829-0285  
Two twin down comforters, new in bag, 240 thread count, 525 fill power, \$40 each. 256-883-0057  
Golf clubs, men's left-handed, woods 1/3/5, irons 3-9, PW, SW, putter, no bag, \$100. 882-3983  
Go Kart, 2 seater, roll bar, lights, \$300; desk w/overhead hutch, \$50. 233-1649  
John Deere lawn mower, well-maintained, equipped w/mulcher and cover, \$1,850 firm. 776-4092  
Hardwood flooring, 3/4" nail down, unfinished #1 common red oak, 810 square feet, \$1.65 per sq. ft. 227-0339/Dave  
Sofa, loveseat, coffee table, two end tables, two lamps, 5x8 rug, \$350. 852-2682  
Kerosene heater, 22,300 BTU; gas-powered scooter, \$135; 8' fluorescent lights, \$1 each. 683-9364  
Dinette, wrought iron & rattan, round glass top, four chairs, \$300; matching bar-stools, \$60. 256-797-8866  
Moonroof visor for 2006 Honda Civic sedans, never used, mint condition, \$50. 850-4185  
Antiques: oak pedestal table, dining room chairs, couch; refrigerator, bookcase, area rugs. 551-0276  
Washer/dryer, \$175, home gym, \$100, round wooden table, \$20. 772-1052  
Windows XP home edition w/Service Pack 2, never used, \$60. 859-3136  
Pug, AKC, fawn w/black mask, shots/de-wormed, 11 weeks old, \$275. 256-882-2037  
Winchester 1300 Defender, 12-gauge, 18.5" barrel, ext. magazine, wood, w/mounted flashlight, \$225. 379-3606  
Gas logs, 24" vent-free natural gas, Temco brand, used seldom, \$100. 533-6473  
JennAire side-by-side refrigerator, ice & water in door, white, \$450; Sears treadmill, \$100. 714-3742  
Bedroom suite, amish oak, 3 piece, \$3,000; king mahogany bed, pillowtop mattress, \$750. 256-653-9222

1964 Harmony Tenor Archtop guitar, dual F-holes, snowflake neck "inlay," \$250. 303-3702  
Small loveseat, blue and green on natural; kitchen table & chairs solid maple; miscellaneous household. 883-5543  
Kasson-Auburn pool table, 8', fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$2,500. 880-6563  
Software: Turbo-tax Basic for Federal Returns, 2006, \$16; Quicken Basic 2005 Person Finance, \$6; both \$20. 683-7683

### Vehicles

1997 Honda Accord SE, 4 door, auto, 2nd owner, all records, \$5,450. 536-4326  
1997 Toyota 4-Runner, 80K miles, 2WD, auto, V6. 837-7596  
1993 Acura Integra, 196K miles, \$2,000. 683-7015  
2001 Yamaha TTR225, 2002 Honda CR80, and trailer, \$2,999. 256-533-5942  
1993 Jeep Cherokee Sport, white, automatic, 140K miles, \$1,500. 931-703-5956  
1994 Ford conversion van, white, V8, towing package, 180K miles, \$3,500. 830-9507 after 5 p.m.  
1995 Toyota Avalon XLS, leather, moonroof, automatic transmission, 4 door, power windows, \$4,000. 256-830-4846  
2006 Honda Odyssey LX, Gray, tan cloth interior, 9.5K miles, factory warranty, \$22,000. 256-837-8389  
2000 Sonoma short-bed truck, 22K original miles, \$5,000. 653-9093  
2004 Harley Davidson Road King Classic, pearl white, 13K miles, garage kept, \$15,900. 776-0811  
2006 Accord EX, white/tan, moonroof, loaded, cloth interior, 4K miles, \$21,900. 883-6894  
2003 GMC Envoy, leather interior, sunroof, 83K miles, \$12,000. 508-8707  
1998 Jeep Wrangler Sahara, black w/hardtop, alloys, 5 speed, adult owned, 97K miles, \$9,800. 837-1774

### Wanted

To rent Class A motor home. 509-7907

## Marshall honors CFC participants



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

George Myers, left, an engineer in the Spacecraft & Vehicle Systems Department in the Engineering Directorate; Rose Allen, director of the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications; and Rosa Kilpatrick, local Federal Coordinating Committee member for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, review the list of honorees at the Combined Federal Campaign Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Feb. 8. The campaign is an annual initiative by federal and military personnel to raise money for local charities. Representatives from organizations across the Marshall Center gathered at the Activities Building to accept awards recognizing their level of participation in the 2006 campaign. Marshall team members exceeded this year's goal of \$575,000 with contributions totaling \$650,815.96. Myers, who served as the Marshall 2006 CFC executive chairperson, expressed his thanks to the attendees and their organizations for their generosity and dedication to the community.

## March 11 daylight-saving time to affect NOMAD users

Daylight-saving time will begin Sunday, March 11. The daylight-saving time patches will be applied to all NASA supported desktops, applications and servers Feb. 16. Please do not attempt to correct

the times of any events scheduled between March 11-30 before Feb. 17. For more information, go to Center Announcements on "Inside Marshall."

## Severe Weather Awareness Week is Feb. 18-23

The Marshall Center will observe Severe Weather Awareness Week on Feb. 18-23. The center's annual tornado drill will be held Friday, Feb. 23, beginning at 8:50 a.m. Listen for the Emergency Warning System announcements and evacuate to protective areas when it's appropriate. Contact Cathy Miller, Marshall's emergency preparedness officer, at 544-3131 for more information.

## Shuttle Buddies to meet Feb. 26

The Shuttle Buddies will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 26, at Mullins Restaurant on Andrew Jackson Way. For more information, call Deemer Self at 881-7757.

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Vol. 47/No. 21

Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812  
(256) 544-0030  
<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall>

The Marshall Star is published every Thursday by the Public and Employee Communications Office at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Classified ads must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, and other submissions no later than 5 p.m. Friday to the Marshall Public and Employee Communications Office (CS20), Bldg. 4200, Room 103. Submissions should be written legibly and include the originator's name. Send e-mail submissions to: [intercom@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:intercom@msfc.nasa.gov). The Star does not publish commercial advertising of any kind.

Manager of Public and Employee  
Communications — Dom Amatore  
Editor — Jessica Wallace

GPO: U.S. Government Printing Office 2007-623-033-20086

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